(c) and (d) The Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 has come into force with effect from 4-2-1995 in the States of Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra and all the Union Territories. The other States have been requested to adopt the above mentiond Act. It is now for the concerned States to take further appropriate action in this regard. The State Government of Karnataka has since adopted this Act after the State Governments of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu are going to adopt this Act shortly. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have promulgated an Ordinance in this behalf vide Ordinance No. 7 of 1995.

Harmful toothpastes

3883. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Toothpastes to bear warning for kids" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 17th February, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the toothpastes containing flourides are harmful for children;

(c) whether any statutory warning on those toothpastes would be enforced; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Toothpastes containing excess of fluoride, when used continuously may be harmful.

(c) and (d) The Government have initiated steps to prohibit use of fluoride — toothpaste by children below seven years of age. The stautory warning when finalised in consultation with Dental Health Experts shall be enforced by the Government. The Govt. has notified that fluoride toothpaste shall not contain fluoride more than 1000 ppm.

Final Report of the Technical Advisory Committee on plauge

3884. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 672 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th March, 1995 and state;

(a) whether the final Report of the Technical Advisory Committee constituted to determine the factors responsible for the out-break of plauge has now been received; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) The report is expected to be submitted by 31.7.1995.

Cornea grafting facilities in the country

3885. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the measures envisaged under the National Blindness Control Programme;

(b) whether Cornea grafting has been accepted as a method for restoring sight for the blind;

(c) what is the number of eye banks in the country, State-wise where cornea grafting facilities are available; and

(d) whether Government have formulated any action plan to promote eye donation cause and enlist support of non-Governmental voluntary organisations for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVER): (a) The various measures taken to control blindness under National programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) *inter-alia* include

(i) Strengthening of Ophthalmic infra-structure,

(ii) Expanding the coverage to rural and tribal areas,

(iii) Training of Ophthalmic manpower,

(iv) Establishment of District Blindness Control Societies.

(v) Creating awareness about the eye care in the masses, and

(vi) Increasing financial Outlays.

(b) Yes, Sir. It can be used only in the case of corneally blind persons.

(c) A statement showing the details of Eye Banks where Cornea grafting facilities are available is enclosed. (*See* below).

(d) Under the programme, one time non-recurring assistance of Rs. 1.75 lakhs and recurring assistance of 0.25 lakhs is admissible for the development and maintenance of eye banks in the Voluntary Sectors. Since 1986, a National Fortnight on Eye Donation is being observed every year from 25th Aug. to 8th Sept. to generate awareness about Eye Donation.

Statement

Statewise details of Eye Banks in the country where cornea grafting facilities are available

S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Cornea Grafting Centres
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	1
2	Assam	1
3	Bihar	1
4	Chandigarh	1
5	Delhi	3
6	Gujarat	3
7	Haryana	3
8	Karnataka	3
9	Kerala	2
10	Madhya Pradesh	2
11	Maharashtra	8
12	Punjab	3
13	Rajasthan	3
14	Tamil Nadu	5
15	Uttar Pradesh	3
16	West Bengal	1
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News item captioned "Ayurvedic cure for AIDS"

3886. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated the 10th April, 1995 captioned 'Ayurvedic cure for AIDS" successfully tried and found useful on nearly 45 HIV positive patients in the U.S. recently;

(b) if so, whether any scientific evaluation/study of the herbal compound and the way it works on the AIDS virus is proposed to be undertaken by Government of India in collaboration with a California based physician, Dr. George Essay after making full research and consultation with Mr. F. A. Majeed, the Indian Herbalist; and